

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the very thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-30 remain in the application and claims 7, 19, 25, 27 and 29 are independent. The Office Action dated January 26, 2010 has been received and carefully reviewed. Each issue raised in the Office Action is addressed below. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested, inasmuch as the instant amendment merely cancels the only rejected claim and automatically places the application in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1-30 are allowed. Claim 31, the only claim that was under rejection, has been canceled by this amendment. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants again note it appears that some of the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed along with the application and the second IDS filed December 26, 2006, filed responsive to the European Search Report dated October 27, 2006, appear to have been lined out as if they were not considered. Applicants believe that the references cited therein were in compliance with all of the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 and therefore again request that the Examiner either consider the remaining references and return the appropriately marked SB 08 forms with the next Office Action, or indicate the basis for any refusal to consider the references so that Applicants may respond appropriately.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 31 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Murata in view of Tanahashi. While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 31 has been cancelled, thus rendering this rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been properly traversed and addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited.

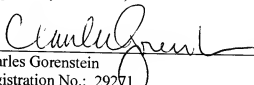
Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Paul T. Sewell, Registration No. 61,784, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 24, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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